Dr. Furst

Writing an Outline

An outline is a “blueprint” or “plan” for your paper. It helps you to organize your thoughts and arguments. A good outline can make conducting research and then writing the paper very efficient. Your outline page must include:

- Paper title
- Thesis statement (your definition / argument / interpretation)
- Major points / arguments indicated by Roman numerals (i.e., I, II, III, etc.)
- Support for your major points, indicated by Arabic numerals (i.e., A, B, C, D, E, etc.)

Roman numeral I should be your “Introduction”. In the introduction portion of your paper, you want to tell your reader what your paper is about (more generally) and then state what your paper proves (= your thesis /definition which should be the last sentence or at the end of the paragraph).

Roman numerals II, III, etc. should provide the supporting examples for your thesis / definition / interpretation. These should already be briefly mentioned in your thesis and introduction as part of the outline / overview of what your essay is about. Also add some supporting and more specific examples for your major points using Arabic numerals (a, b, c, etc.).

The final Roman numeral should be your “Conclusion”. In the conclusion, you summarize what you have told your reader and make a call for action or provide a solution to the problem.

The goal of this outline is to make writing easier and more efficient.

Example of an Outline

Working title: ***Do The Right Thing*: Spike Lee's Wake Up Call to America**

Thesis: To reach his audience, he meticulously uses dialectal oppositions, cultural and musical aesthetics and Brechtian modernism. Furthermore, Lee utilizes these tools and techniques to prompt his audience to think critically on issues such as police brutality, economic exploitation, and racism that plague America and its citizens, in the film but also in reality.

I. Introductory Paragraph
   a. Spike Lee's epic 1989 film *Do The Right Thing*, isn't just a film rich with 1980's culture and style, but it also illustrates Spike Lee's avid understanding and masterful ability to utilize The Brechtian style of filmmaking, as well as other techniques, to curate a film that addresses a seemingly timeless critical issue in America: racism. Some scholars even argue that Lee has a long-standing history of addressing "crucial contemporary issues such as racism, economic exploitation, police brutality, and multiculturalism"(Khairy 1). To reach his audience, he meticulously uses dialectal oppositions, cultural and musical aesthetics and Brechtian modernism. Furthermore, Lee utilizes these tools and techniques to prompt his audience to think critically on issues such as police brutality, economic exploitation, and racism that plague America and its citizens, in the film but also in reality.

II. Overview/summary of film and aspects of racial tension that exists in the film
   a. Include quote from Fabe: "Lee in-tended to use the film as a wake-up call to America (the film's narrative begins with Señor Love Daddy [Samuel Jackson], a radio DJ, urging his listeners to 'Waaaake up'" (191)

III. Use of dialectical oppositions to highlight racism and economic exploitation
   a. Use examples from the films of the different ethnic groups
   b. Use Khairy source here on tension raised in the film (p. 1)

IV. Realistic aspect of the setting to highlight racial tensions in US as well as the film
   a. New York city that is multi-racial
   b. Examples of characters that could exist in real life
      i. Radio Raheem
      ii. Sal